

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0003] Conventionally, voting systems including a printing device are described as including a standard printer. The printer may be located either in the vicinity of the voting machine, locked within the voting machine, or integrated with the voting machine. However, various disadvantages are associated with such conventional voting systems. For example, in many countries a printed audit trail, such as a paper copy of the cast ballots, is required by law. Such a printed audit trail can be necessary in the case where a manual re-count of the votes is called for at a future date. The term printed audit trail describes a printed paper receipt summary of the candidates for whom a voter has voted, and thus can provide a hard copy of an election. For example, in the United States, when votes are being re-counted the paper ballots are taken out of storage and viewed by two poll workers, each of whom record the vote before the new results are tallied. As a result, it is important that the paper ballot or printed audit trail is an accurate representation of the each vote cast, and that the ballot has not been altered or tampered with.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0006] Various exemplary embodiments of the systems and methods of this invention recognize a need for casting a vote and verification of its accuracy before the votes ~~east~~cast are archived. The present invention can provide a voting machine in which the printed audit trail can be compared with a summary on the display. Thus, voter confidence in casting a vote and verification of its accuracy, as well as improved security, compactness, reliability and ease of use can be improved.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0036] Alternatively, a memory can be included in the detachable printer or the voting machine 100 where electronic data information can be stored on and recalled from

electronic storage devices, such as a CD/DVD, or any type of known or later developed device that stores electronic data information. The electronic storage devices can be coupled to the processor 112 as needed.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0037] The display screen 120 of the selection panel 110 can include a plurality of selection buttons 114 that control various operations of the voting system 10. The selection buttons 114 may be selected manually by a voter, for example, by touching a touchscreen or the display screen 120 with a finger. Alternatively, an input device 116 can be used to select from among the various selection buttons 114. In various exemplary embodiments, the input device ~~120~~116 may include, for example, a mouse, a keyboard, trackball, and any other known or later developed type of input device, such as a stylus, a keypad and a touchscreen. Additionally, the display screen 120 can have a ballot contained within a protective plastic cover that is securely held above buttons or switches on the display screen. The buttons can correspond to the ballots so that when a voter selects a choice on the ballot, the corresponding underlying button is depressed, and thus the voter selection is recorded by the voting machine. As will be discussed in greater detail below, the display screen 120 can be constructed of one or more LCD cells so that the print data 242 or a portion thereof can be selectively displayed by turning on or off the LCD.

Please replace paragraph [0065] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0065] Additionally, Figs. 3 and 4 further illustrate the lock/unlock detection sensor 256. The lock/unlock detection sensor 256 can determine whether various components in the voting system 10 are locked or unlocked. For example, the lock/unlock detection sensor 256 can provide information to the controller about whether the cover 230 of the printer box 205 is open or closed. If the cover 230 is closed, operation of the voting system 10 will function

normally. If, however, the cover 230 is open, the operation of the voting system 10 can be disabled.

Please replace paragraph [0085] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0085] In step S300, the voting system determines whether a ballot is too large to fit into the recording device window of the printer box. If not, control proceeds to step S400 in which the printed audit trail is printed to the recording medium for review and acceptance by the voter. However, if in step S300 the printed receipt is too large to fit into the recording device window of the printer box, then control will proceed to step S310 where the voting system determines whether the audit trail is to be printed a page at a time. Depending on the decision of the voting system, either step S500 or step S700 is taken depending upon the circumstances.

Please replace paragraph [0123] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0123] In step S3000, the recording medium is advanced on an image recording device until the selected choices are out of sight so that the next voter using the voting system cannot view how the previous voter cast his or her vote. Control then proceeds to step ~~S3300~~S3250 where a decision is made whether there is a new voter. If there is no new voter, then control will proceed to step S3300.

Please replace paragraph [0124] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0124] In step S3300, the receipts are collected and taken to a secure location to be stored as required by law. Otherwise, if there is a new voter, Control then control proceeds to step S2100 in which a new set of selectable choices are displayed on the display screen of a selection panel of the voting system for a new voter. The control routine then repeats itself again from step S2100 through steps ~~S3300~~S3250.